

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 33

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTAGE, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 1

1. VALERIANI (NBC RADIO, 2:00 PM FROM WASHINGTON): "IN THE TWO WEEKS SINCE KISSINGER'S LAST TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST THE OUTLINE OF AN AGREEMENT HAS BEGUN TO EMERGE. IT INVOLVES AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM TWO STRATEGIC PASSES IN THE SINAI DESERT AND THE RETURN OF THE ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS TO EGYPT IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME STILL UNDEFINED POLITICAL CONCESSIONS FROM EGYPT, INCLUDING SOME KIND OF A PLEDGE NOT TO ATTACK ISRAEL. BUT KISSINGER INSISTS THAT ANOTHER DEAL IS NOT ALREADY IN THE BAG, AND HE EXPECTS A LOT OF TOUGH BARGAINING. THIS IS HIS 11TH TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE BECOMING SECRETARY OF STATE AND PERHAPS THE MOST CRITICAL, SINCE THE RESULTS OF THIS WILL SURELY SHAPE THE FUTURE COURSE OF ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS.

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2. ABC EVENING TV NEWS, HOWARD K. SMITH: "THE SECRETARY

OF STATE LEFT WASHINGTON TODAY TO BEGIN ANOTHER ROUND OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. PRESIDENT FORD SAYS HE IS HOPEFUL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE MISSION." (NO REPORT FROM KOPPEL)

3. NBC EVENING TV NEWS, CHANCELLOR: "SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS BEEN TALKING AGAIN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF USING FORCE AGAINST OIL-PRODUCING STATES. KISSINGER TOLD SOME CONGRESSMEN YESTERDAY THAT UNLESS THE UNITED STATES DEVELOPS INDEPENDENT SOURCES OF ENERGY, IT COULD BE FORCED INTO WHAT HE CALLED SURRENDER OR USING MILITARY FORCE. THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY DESCRIBED THAT AS A WARNING OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN, NOT A PREDICTION. KISSINGER LEFT TODAY FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND RICHARD VALERIANI BRINGS US THAT STORY. VALERIANI: ONCE AGAIN PRESIDENT FORD TOOK PERSONAL CHARGE OF THE DEPARTURE CEREMONY FOR KISSINGER, THIS TIME ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE. MR. FORD WANTED TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MISSION, AS WELL AS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE FULL AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED IN THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE QUESTIONER: MR. PRESIDENT, IS THAT GOING TO BE A SUCCESSFUL MISSION? THE PRESIDENT: WE'RE ALWAYS HOPEFUL. VALERIANI: KISSINGER IS HEADING FIRST TO LONDON FOR SOME CEREMONIAL DIPLOMACY. HE'S DUE IN EGYPT ON FRIDAY TO START THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. THEN HE'LL FLY TO SYRIA AND ISRAEL THIS WEEKEND. AFTER THAT, THE TRIP IS OPEN-ENDED, AND KISSINGER EXPECTS TO SPEND TWO TO THREE WEEKS SHUTTling BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, WITH FREQUENT SIDE TRIPS TO DAMASCUS. IN THE TWO WEEKS SINCE KISSINGER'S LAST TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THE OUTLINE OF AN AGREEMENT HAS BEGUN TO EMERGE. IT INVOLVES AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM TWO STRATEGIC PASSES IN THE SINAI DESERT, AND THE RETURN OF THE ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS TO EGYPT, IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME STILL-UNDEFINED POLITICAL CONCESSIONS FROM EGYPT, INCLUDING SOME KIND OF A PLEDGE NOT TO ATTACK ISRAEL. BUT KISSINGER INSISTS THAT ANOTHER DEAL IS NOT ALREADY IN THE BAG, AND HE EXPECTS A LOT OF TOUGH BARGAINING. THIS IS KISSINGER'S 11TH TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE HE BECAME SECRETARY OF STATE, AND IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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PERHAPS THE MOST CRITICAL, SINCE THE RESULTS OF THIS MISSION WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE COURSE OF ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS.

4. CBS EVENING TV NEWS, CRONKITE: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS LEFT WASHINGTON EN ROUTE TO THE MIDDLE EAST, HIS ELEVENTH TRIP THERE TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE AN ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE. BEFORE LEAVING TODAY, KISSINGER ASSESSED

AS FIFTY-FIFTY THE CHANCES FOR A NEW ISRAELI TROOP
PULLBACK IN THE SINAI. JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TODAY,

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFIRMED THAT KISSINGER HAD REPEATED
HIS HYPOTHETICAL WARNING OF U.S. MILITARY FORCE AGAINST
ARAB OIL COUNTRIES. THE WARNING WAS MADE YESTERDAY AT
THE WHITE HOUSE BREAKFAST MEETING WITH 70 DEMOCRATIC
FRESHMEN CONGRESSMEN. KISSINGER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID
THAT UNLESS THE UNITED STATES ACHIEVES ENERGY INDEPENDENCE,
THE COUNTRY MIGHT EVENTUALLY HAVE ONLY TWO OPTIONS --
SURRENDER TO ARAB OIL DICTATES OR THE USE OF MILITARY
FORCE. (NO TV PIECE FROM KALB).

5. UPI (UNSIGNED FROM WASHINGTON SHORTLY AFTER
DEPARTURE): "HAK LEFT TODAY ON WHAT MAY BE HIS HARDEST
MISSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- PERSUADING ISRAEL AND
EGYPT TO AGREE ON FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LAND
EAST OF THE SUEZ CANAL.

STORY SAID:"HAK WAS MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC OF SUCCESS AS
HIS SPECIAL JET TOOK OFF FROM ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE SHORT-
LY AFTER NOON EDT. HE WILL VISIT BRITAIN, AND POSSIBLY
BRUSSELS, BEFORE LANDING IN EGYPT FRIDAY.

THE LATEST SHUTTLE IN HAK'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO PEACE
IN THE VOLATILE AREA COULD LAST A MONTH OR MORE. STATE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE DANGER OF A NEW WAR
BETWEEN ARAB AND JEW WILL INCREASE IF HE FAILS TO GET AN
ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT.

PUBLICLY, EGYPT AND ISRAEL ARE FAR APART ON ANY EXCHANGE
OF PEACE ASSURANCES FROM THE ARAB NATION IN RETURN FOR
STRATEGIC PASSES AND RICH OIL FIELDS LOST TO ISRAEL EIGHT
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YEARS AGO.

"WE'RE ALWAYS HOPEFUL, FORD TOLD REPORTERS AFTER HE
PERSONALLY ESCORTED HAK TO THE LIMOUSINE."

STORY FURTHER REPORTED HAK ON FRIDAY WILL FLY TO EGYPT,
PERHAPS STOPPING IN BRUSSELS TO CONFER WITH GREEK FOREIGN
MINISTER DIMITRIOS BITSIOS ABOUT THE STALLED GREEK-
TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS OVER CYPRUS.

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